

NOTICES OF FIRMS.

THE interest and responsibility of Mr. GEORGE WILHELM SCHWEITZER and of Mr. RUDOLPH GRINSSON in our firm ceased on the 31st December 1867, and 31st December 1868 respectively.

MR. FERDINAND NIJSSEN and Mr. HEINRICH HOPFUS have this day been admitted partners in our firm at Hongkong and in China, which now consists of Mr. GEORGE THIODORE SIEMSEN, Mr. WOLDEMAR NIJSSEN, Mr. ADOLPH JOOST, Mr. FERDINAND NIJSSEN and Mr. HEINRICH HOPFUS.

SIEMSEN & CO.
Hongkong, January 1, 1869.

NOTICE.

THE interest and responsibility of Mr. WILLIAM NELSON in our firm ceased on the 30th June last.

MR. THOMAS PIM, MR. WILLIAM NISBET, OMERTON and MR. H. SEYMOUR GRAY are authorized to sign our Firm in Hongkong and China from this date.

OLYPHANT & CO.
Hongkong, October 6, 1868.

I HAVE this day authorized Mr. C. LANGDON DAVIES to sign my name for pro-curement to all Buyers for goods supplied to the Hongkong Hotel, and I alone am liable to pay for goods supplied upon such orders.

I have further authorized Mr. Davies to collect all debts due to me on Hotel account, for which his receipt will be a sufficient discharge.

LEE AFOONG.
Hongkong, December 1, 1868.

NOTICE.

MR. C. J. H. SCHNEIDER is authorized to sign our Firm for pro-curement, from this date.

SWANBECK & THIEL.
Saigon, November 14, 1868.

NOTICE.

I HAVE this day established myself as a PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT, AVERAGE ADJUSTER and GENERAL COMMISSION AGENT.

C. LANGDON DAVIES.

Hongkong, July 1, 1868.

NOTICE.

FROM and after this date Mr. GEORGE F. BOWMAN will act as AGENT of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company at this Port.

S. L. PHELPS,
Agent.

Hongkong, August 15, 1868.

NOTICE.

MR. HENRY LISTON DALEYMPLE is authorized to sign our Firm for pro-curement, at Foochow from this date.

BIRLEY & CO.

Hongkong, June 3, 1868.

NOTICE.

I HAVE established myself at this port as General Commission Merchant, under the style and Firm of GIFFORD F. PARKER & CO.

GIFFORD FORBES PARKER,
Saigon, December 20, 1868.

NOTICE.

WE have authorized Mr. CLAUDE BUDDO to sign our Firm from this date.

DREYER & CO.

Hongkong, January 1, 1868.

New Advertisements.

CONSIGNERS of Cotton per S. S. "Catherine Astor," are hereby informed that the same will be landed and stored in our Godown No. 2, Murree Lot 63, at ship's expense but shippers' risk, and delivery may be had at any time prior to the 1st inst., after which date Godown rent will be charged.

GIBB, LIVINGSTON & CO.,
Agents.
Hongkong, January 5, 1869.

FOR SALE.

THE Cargo of the "Shirley," from New York.

1,122 Tons Pittston COAL.

75 OARS, 16 feet long.

120 Do. 18 "

12 ft. bbls. Dried APPLES.

100 Bales Navy OAKUM.

194 pieces white Pine PLANKS, 8,744 ft.

39 " Oak Do. 6,538 "

30 " HANDSPIKES.

Store TRUCKS, ROSIN, PITCH, and

TAKE.

Apply to AUGUSTINE, HEARD & CO.

Hongkong, January 5, 1869.

READY-MADE CLOTHING.

AT COST PRICE.

Stoneback Cloth Shooting Coats, \$10 15.

Rock " 13 18.

Dress " 13 18.

Pants " 6

Vests " 2 50

Suit of newest Styles & Patterns, 12 18.

Fancy Tweed Shooting Coats, 6 12.

Sac Coats, " 5 10.

Merino Shooting and Sac Coats, " 2.

Alpacas " 2.

Vests and Pants, " 2.

Light and heavy Trousers, " 2 7.

Linen Jackets, " 1 75

Cotton " 1.

Trousers, " 2.

Vests, " 2.

Hongkong, January 5, 1869.

PUBLIC AUCTION.

HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE.

THE Undersigned has received instructions from the Executor to sell by Public Auction, at the Residence of the late W. GASKELL, Esq. No. 57, Wyndham Street, on

FRIDAY,

the 8th January, 1869, at Noon.

The whole of his Household FURNITURE, comprising—Chairs, Tables, Couches, Sideboards, Whatnots, Lamps, Teapots, Cutlery and Glassware, Mirrors, Books, Oil Paintings, etc., etc., etc. Sundry Wines and Stores, 1 Revolver, 1 Rifle, 1 Tranter's Rifle, 1 Parlour Rifle.

TERMS OF SALE.—Cash before delivery in Mexican Dollars weighed at 7.17.

J. M. ARMSTRONG,
Auctioneer.

Hongkong, January 5, 1869.

New Advertisements.

BOWRA & CO. will sell by Public Auction, on

TUESDAY,

12th January, 1869, at 11 o'clock A.M., on the Premises, Queen's Road West, Two doors West from the "London Inn," Sundry Household FURNITURE, Glassware, Crockery-ware, a large Collection of Engravings and Paintings, etc., etc.

TERMS OF SALE.—Cash before delivery in Mexican Dollars weighed at 7.17.

Hongkong, January 5, 1869.

NOTICE.

THE Undersigned will sell by Public Auction, on

THURSDAY,

the 7th January, 1869, at 12 o'clock at his Sales Rooms, Commercial Bank Buildings,

1 Croquet Set.

300 feet gilt Moulding.

1 case Needle Boxes, ass'ted sizes.

50 boxes, each 3 gross Clay Pipes.

10 cases, each 4 doz. India Pale Ale.

100 pairs Vases assorted.

5 gross red Ink.

20 Fire Grates.

100 doz. Egg Cups.

25 doz. Tumblers.

29 bundles white Linen.

31 bundles Log Line.

3 cases Hemp Packing.

12 bundles, each 3 team Emery Cloth.

3 colls Deep-sea Line.

41 pairs Rubber Boots.

11 silk Hats.

13 Whalers' Lances.

5 cases, each 10 tins Bent's Crackers.

10 doz. Cross and Blackwell's pot.

Canned Meats.

One Lot of Sewing Needles.

8 sets of first rate woolen and linen Horse-clothing.

10 tins Bath Chaps.

40 bags Coffee.

Deception Glasses, wooden Pipes, Crockery, Picture Frames, Inkstands, Watchstands, Courier Bags, Pocket Knives, Cloches, etc.

And,

Ex "Dunkeld,"

More or less damaged by sea water,

2 cases, each 400 dozen & Lawn Handkerchiefs.

Also,

Ex "Red Deer,"

More or less damaged by sea water,

2 cases, each 400 dozen & Lawn Handkerchiefs.

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Ex "Red Deer,"

More or less damaged by sea water,

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"China Mail" Office
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charges by
CHARLES A. SAINT.

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Mail-Steam Packets of
for the Year 1869, as
Majesty's Postmaster
China Mail Office,
ber 26, 1868.

QUERIES
JAPAN.
Vol. 2,
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DAY, JAN. 5, 1869.

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regards the second consideration, gold is the necessary unit, from considerations based explicitly upon the needs and aptitudes of modern civilization; We attempted to extract a portion of the paragraph which deals with this portion of the question. In the operations of modern commerce, says the writer,

"The sums to be paid are large, and therefore the medium in which they are paid should be costly. Silver is the characteristic currency of early nations and poor nations." By comparison it is plentiful, and therefore cheap; the small amounts which early trade required were best paid in it, and therefore it was used. But now large transactions require a dear paying medium. The more costly the unit, the fewer the pieces to be counted, and the easier the use of the currency."

And again speaking of the necessity of gold in its even in transactions where paper and gold instead of bullion,

"The question of account concerns all possible transactions, whether they are resolved upon or not; coin is only used in actual transactions, and not by any means in all those. A high unit of reckoning is of primary importance; now that people always think of trading largely, and the best way of attaining this by selecting some costly gold coin and making it our unit. * * * Very possibly if we selected silver, new mining discoveries might begin to reduce its value. The notion of a commodity whose cost is constant, and whose relative value to other articles does not alter, is imaginary. * * * One's business like all business is rough; we must take the metal that suits best on the whole. The trials of depreciation being on us, what we see, we halibut take gold, because we can pay in it and reckon in it the easiest."

Many other arguments are adduced, but that relating to the third assertion, the necessity of a decimal coinage, seems to us the weakest. It is urged that it is a "natural" mode of "computation" and is familiar to us because we have ten fingers and toes. The natural selection of the decimal system is open to doubt, but we admit the conclusion, though on different grounds. The question then of course arises, which coinage is most suitable for international use? or what modifications are necessary in existing systems to render any one capable of becoming an international standard?

The English Pound is admitted, with some qualifications, to be the best suited, as an answer to the first and second questions, but its subdivisions are pronounced hopeless for the purpose in view.

Objection is taken to the dollar (the ten-dollar gold eagle seems to be overlooked as a high "gold unit"), and the coinage of France, Germany, and Spain are also pronounced against. Our present objections however not in discussing their defects but in pointing out the absurdity of asking China, which possesses a currency of silver and copper only, to join in a convention of which the first principle, admitted by all the financial economists of Europe whatever their opinions upon other details, is a "high gold unit." We have not yet succeeded in inducing the Chinese as a nation to accept even the dollar currency, much less any other silver coinage. On the contrary, the first thing done with Hongkong dollars when received new from the colonial

bank is to turn them down into bullion! And yet on behalf of a nation which feels such need of an international currency that it melts down at the earliest opportunity the best specimens of coined money, as regards fineness and convenience, yet produced in the East, the envoy undertakes to enter into a convention, for the purpose of advancing trade and civilization, to establish a "unity of money," etc. Even were the silver coinage of the west universally accepted in China, the complete absence of gold as a circulating medium is an insuperable bar to any such arrangement. Of course if China is to be taken possession of by Western powers a gold currency will become not merely a probability but a necessity. We commend to the perusal of any who were inclined to believe in the possibility of the China of to-day entering upon any such undertaking the following concluding paragraph from the same journal as quoted above:

"Silver was the old currency of Europe; gold a mere article of dealing and traffic. Silver is the best currency for early times because it is easy; just as gold is the best currency for ripe ages because it is dear. Gradually there has been a transition from the metal of early times to the metal of late times. The English system makes the dearer metal—gold—the standard—use gold alone in considerable payments. But it uses silver as a medium for small payments, and discards all notion of a real comparison of its value with the value of gold. Twenty shillings do not really make a £. The value is arbitrary, and the quantity coined is arbitrary. Gold coinage circulates at its true value, and an artificial silver coinage circulates at an abnormal value because of its regulated quantity."

And yet a country where silver alone circulates at its intrinsic value is to help us in the task of reorganizing the world's currency!

PROGRESS" IN CHINA.
It would seem strange that, amidst the many arguments brought forward in support of foreign enterprise in China, but little prominence has been given to an inevitable law of social progress which, despite theories or fancies, demonstrates its existence by absolute facts. This law, summarized in the words "Demand creates supply and supply increases demand; if there be demand the supply must cease," is and must ever remain, at the root of all attempts at improvement, whether they take the form of improved means of transit, the establishment of new ports, or the "opening up" of the empire; and it has, we think, been unduly kept in the background in all our dealings with the Chinese. Foreigners who are perfectly acquainted with the practical influence

which this law exercises over all their undertakings are especially apt to forget that "improvement" as presented to the Chinese mind does not take the form of an experiment, whose continuance depends upon success, but of a violation of the ordinary laws which regulate commerce, just as does war, rebellion, or any other circumstance which for the time suspends the ordinary conditions of civil life. The advocates of Railways and Telegraphs for instance have never gone beyond urging their introduction. Secure in their knowledge of any belief in the past successes of mechanical enterprise, it has never occurred to them to set forth the possibility of China proving an exception to the conclusions based upon experience in "civilized" countries. The Chinese officials simply believe that if the railway system were begun it would, like the old man of the sea, be a perpetual load upon them, no matter how unequal they proved to the load. We do not mean to say that this is the first or most cogent reason for their backwardness in introducing any such proposals. But it does seem that while the political aspect of such undertakings has been much enlarged upon, their commercial inducements have been unduly kept in the background.

Two chair-cooies were charged with obstruction, and with having refused to show their numbers; but Mr. Deane (acting superintendent) failed to appear against them, and was reported sick. His Worship said this was perhaps fortunate for the cooies. He always extended protection to chair-cooies, but only when they observed the law. Prisoners under the circumstances were discharged.

SUMMARY JURISDICTION COURT.

January 5, 1869.

(Before the Hon. Judge Ball.)

Only a very few cases appeared on the roll this morning; and a number of them were struck out owing to the non-appearance of the parties.

His Honor gave judgment in the application of Mr. Caldwell (on behalf of the Trustees of the Sailor's Home) for exemption from local taxes for that institution, on account of its being a charitable institution and carried on for charitable purposes. The Judge remarked that he found that the wording of the Ordinance was too strong for him; he was therefore bound to refuse the application for exemption from local rates, as he could not satisfy himself that the Sailor's Home was a bona fide charitable institution, or conducted exclusively for purely charitable purposes.

Mr. Caldwell referred to the lease in which the institution was spoken of distinctly as used "for charitable purposes" and fell back upon the former argument that the building alone and cannot

be used as a means of support solely for the benefit of the Home and for the use of the inmates. His Honor remarked that, however praiseworthy the object of the Home was, he could not get over the exclusive tone of the Ordinance, and therefore was compelled to refuse the application.

BRICKS.

HYDROGRAPHIC NOTICE.

"RIFLEMEN'S" SURVEYS.

GULF OF SIAM—BALABAQ STRAIT.

The following information has been received from Staff-Commander J. W. Reed, commanding H. M. Surveying Vessel *Riflemen*, and is published for general information.

A. Abdolatif, a Kan Loong and Another, #231-79.—Mr. Pollard, instructed by Mr. Caldwell, appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Hayllar, instructed by Mr. Hazelton, appeared for the defendants.

This was a case of dispute regarding the touch of a certain purchase of gold made by plaintiff from the defendants.

It appears that a drummer named Augustus Seymour fell into, or was known or pushed into, the water at the Government Wharf on Christmas Day, during a somewhat number of soldiers of both regiments (73rd and 75th). The inquest was

held, and the drummers were

recovered.

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raised by his learned friend, there was nothing against his case whatever; and he claimed the sum sued for as loss sustained on account of the inferiority of the touch of the gold sold to his client for 100 taels metal, and so on.

His Honor reserved his judgment until next Tuesday, as he wished to look over his notes of the previous cases.

CORRESPONDENCE.

MR. MORENO'S ISLAND.

To the Editor of the "CHINA MAIL."

Sir.—The island reported to have been offered to the United States by the Italian Moreno is situated on the Equator, a little to the Westward of Malacca, and has been known for some years by the name of Sumatra. The position assigned it by the *China Gazette* on the China coast was wrong, as from the first Moreno in his statements to the N. Y. press, located it in the Malayan Archipelago. Moreno in his autobiography

as furnished to the public through the columns of the *Herald*, claims to have been the Chief of Staff to Nan Sabit, (a statement which must endear him to every Englishman,) and was reported sick. His Worship said this was perhaps fortunate for the cooies. He always extended protection to the cooies, but only when they observed the law.

Two chair-cooies were charged with obstruction, and with having refused to show their numbers; but Mr. Deane (acting superintendent) failed to appear against them, and was reported sick.

A miserable-looking black boy appeared in rags to ask for relief; but it was found that he had been over and over again in Gaol for drunkenness, laziness, and for boggling. In fact, the same boy who was formerly represented as the "pest" of Gibb's hong, was again it would like the old man of the sea, be a perpetual load upon them, no matter how unequal they proved to the load.

Doubtless the cooies had been indigent, but the "pest" he ought not to have been put off as he was. Benjamin was then ordered to pay a fine of \$5, and \$25 amends to the cooies; while the Comprador was ordered to pay a mulot of \$3. The fines were paid.

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Houses and Lands.

TO LET.
THE CHIN HOUSE NO. 20, Queen's Road, containing 1000 square feet, with a Garden, Godown attached, will be let on a long lease.

TO LET.
H. PESTONJEE SETNA, at Messrs P. & C. CAMAEE & CO., Queen's Road, Hongkong, December 1, 1868.

TO LET.
With Immediate Possession, Two Two-Storyed Granite GODOWNS at 1000 square feet, adjoining the Timber Yard of the Union Dock Company, will be let on a long lease.

LANDSTEIN & CO., Hongkong, November 23, 1868.

TO LET.
W. and Offices, No. 4, Gough Street, lately occupied by Messrs A. WILKINSON & CO., will be let on a long lease.

TO LET.
GIBB LIVINGSTON & CO., Hongkong, October 14, 1868.

TO LET.
CONVENIENTLY situated HOUSE in Chancery Lane, Rent moderate.

TO LET.
ARNHOLD KARBERG & CO., Hongkong, October 5, 1868.

TO LET.
THREE Spacious GODOWNS suitable for storing dry Goods, also a Fireproof GODOWN capable of containing 1,000 chests of Opium. Situated in the most central part of Queen's Road. Apply to

J. B. ROSE, Secretary, in Hongkong Hotel Company, Limited, Hongkong, August 12, 1868.

TO LET.
TWO HOUSES TO BE LET, situated on the RISE of the Hill, Westward, and at a easy distance from the Queen's Road. Apply to

M. R. BARRINGTON, in Wyndham Street, Hongkong, May 13, 1868.

TO LET.
THE Undersigned will undertake to land Cotton, Rice, Coals, and other Merchandise in their own Boats, and to receive the same on STORAGE in First-class Godowns, on Moderate Terms.

ROB. S. WALKER & CO., Hongkong, March 4, 1868.

NOTICE.

TO LET.
THE desirable PREMISES on the Queen's Road, lately in the occupation of the Asiatic Bank.

For particulars, apply to

SMITH, ARCHER & CO., Hongkong, May 18, 1868.

TO LET.
THE BUSINESS PREMISES, formerly occupied by Messrs ARNHOLD, KARBERG & CO., consisting of Dwelling House, Offices, and spacious Godown, possession to be had on the 1st March.

Apply to

JOHN BURD & CO., Hongkong, February 22, 1868.

TO BE LET.
TWO New and Strong GODOWNS on Marine Lot No. 63.

Apply to

GAVIN THOMPSON, at GIBB, LIVINGSTON & CO., Hongkong, December 16, 1868.

TO LET.
A HOUSE in Spring Gardens, containing four Rooms and Out Houses; Rent £28 per month.

Apply at the Victoria Foundry, Hongkong, March 12, 1868.

Intimations.

HONGKONG HOTEL.

HAIR DRESSING SALOON.

OPEN from 8 A.M. to 8 P.M.; Sundays, 8 to 12 A.M., for any Gentleman who feels the necessity of having any minor operation performed.

W. P. MOORE, Hongkong, December 8, 1868.

JOHN THOMPSON & CO., DISPENSING & ANALYTICAL CHEMISTS.

SODA WATER MANUFACTURERS.

Ship's Medicine Chests supplied and refilled.

TEETH EXTRACTED.

INTERNATIONAL DISPENSARY.

23, Wellington Street, Hongkong, May 5, 1868.

GEORGE CLASSE, FIVE YEARS MANAGER TO KINGSFORD & CO., PICCADILLY LONDON, AND 28, PLACE VENDOME, PARIS.

ENGLISH AND FOREIGN CHEMIST.

VIATORIA DISPENSARY.

HONGKONG.

SHIPS' MEDICINE CHESTS.

SUPPLIED & REFILLED.

Hongkong, May 1, 1868.

EASTLACK & WINN,

Surgeon Dentists,

HONGKONG & SHANGHAI.

NOTICE.

RENTS and Accounts COLLECTED with

punctuality and despatch.

TO LET.

MONUMENTS and HEAD-STONES

ERECTED, in the Best Style.

HEAD- and METALLIC COFFINS, on the Shortest Notice.

Apply at

Hollywood Road, Corner of Aberdeen St.

Intimations.

LE COCKE & CO., SHIP-CHANDLERS, SALTMARKE, GENERAL STOREKEEPERS, AND COMMISSION AGENTS, H. PESTONJEE SETNA, At Messrs P. & C. CAMAEE & CO., Queen's Road, Hongkong, December 1, 1868.

ANDREW W. MILLAR, HOUSE, SHIP, & STEAM-BOAT PLUMBER, COPPERSMITH & BRASSFOUNDER, No. 1, Queen's Road East and Nullah Lane, Hongkong, October 28, 1868.

BELLEVUE HOUSE, PRIVATE BOARD AND LODGING ESTABLISHMENT, Hollywood Road, No. 6, next to the HOTEL D'EUROPE, lately Miss VINTON'S, CHARLES F. SEABURG, Hongkong, December 8, 1868.

FAWCETT & CO., WINE & SPIRIT MERCHANTS, GENERAL STORE KEEPERS, AND COMMISSION AGENTS, MILLER & CO., Kilmun, April 2, 1868.

FORTEAIS, PRIVATE BOARDING HOUSE, Kilmun, April 2, 1868.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS & OINTMENT, HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.

M. R. J. THOMSON begs to take

PORTRAITS, VIEWS and other

PHOTOGRAPHS.—Rooms, Commercial

Bank Buildings, Queen's Road, Hongkong, March 11, 1868.

STAG HOTEL.

SITUATE IN QUEEN'S ROAD.

WYNAUD FOKING's Double ORANGE CURAÇOA.

WYNAUD FOKING's white CURAÇOA.

A/TH GIN in white and square bottles.

Pomander BITTERS.

LAMMERT ATKINSON & CO., Hongkong, December 14, 1868.

STAG HOTEL.

EDMUND R. HOLMES, Proprietor.

Breakfast, 9 A.M.

Tea, 1 P.M.

Dinner, 7 P.M.

Refreshments provided at all hours.

Regular Daily Meal at \$30 per month.

The undermentioned Papers are filed—

China Mail, Daily Press, China Express, Illustrated London News, Punch, Engineer, Scientific American, China Punch.

ICED DRINKS.

Hongkong, May 4, 1868.

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Hongkong, January 7, 1868.

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Hongkong, January 1, 1868.

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H. COHEN.

Hongkong, March 13, 1868.

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